[Sri P. Kakkan] [27th March 1961

(3) The State Broadcasting Branch be wound up with effect from 1st April 1961 and the staff absorbed in suitable posts in Public Works and similar departments of Government.

The Chief Engineer (General) has reported that nucleus staff may be retained to arrange for the installation of public address systems, maintenance of loudspeaker equipment of State Legislature and for the collection of arrears and dues of maintenance charges for radio receiver sets from the Panchayats and that he has addressed various heads of departments for absorbing the surplus staff. He has also requested that time may be granted till 1st July 1961 for implementing the orders of Government for winding up the department. This is separately under the consideration of the Government. It is proposed to give time to the Chief Engineer till 1st July 1961, for winding up the State Broadcasting Branch as requested by him. But he is being asked to submit detailed proposals before 15th April 1961 for the retention of the barest minimum staff to attend to the residuary work and for the absorption of the balance of staff in suitable posts in other departments.

IV.—GOVERNMENT MOTION.

ASSOCIATION OF THREE MEMBERS WITH THE COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move—

'That this House nominates the following three members to associate with the Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Legislative Assembly for the financial year 1961–62 :—

Sri V. Rengaswamy,
,, L. S. Karayalar, and
,, Mohamed Raza Khan'.

MR CHAIRMAN: The question is—

'That this House nominates the following three members to associate with the Committee on Subordinate Legislation of the Legislative Assembly for the financial year 1961–62 :—

Sri V. Rengaswamy,
,, L. S. Karayalar, and
" Mohamed Raza Khan'.

The motion was put and carried.

V.—GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

(1) DISCUSSION ON THE STATEMENT OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR EXCESS EXPENDITURE IN 1957–58.

SRI MOHAMED RAZA KHAN: Sir, I just like to say a few words. After all the excess expenditure is just only about rupees one crore. But I wish to refer to the report of the Public Accounts

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Committee on the accounts of 1957–58. The operative part of the report says—

'The Committee wishes to emphasize that efforts should be taken to minimize or avoid excesses by timely action to obtain extra funds from the Legislature. There is no reason to doubt, however, the legitimate nature of the expenditure, and the Committee would therefore recommend the presentation to the Legislature under Article 205 (1) of the Constitution, of Demands for Grants to cover these excesses.'

Sir, in that year we had more than one supplementary statement of expenditure. Some items of expenditure could have been brought forward then and the approval of the Legislature obtained. It is for the Finance Minister to say whether the operative part of the report of the Public Accounts Committee is followed. Curiously in that year also we find that there was a heavy saving. Under 'Voted' it was 29·5 per cent, and under 'Charged' it was 14·1 per cent. The total was 26·1 per cent. But there are some reasons for heavy saving also. There was the transfer of a certain amount to the Electricity Board. Even making allowance for that particular item, the saving was on the border of 10 per cent. In the previous years the saving was ranging between 6 and 7 per cent. But in this year the savings was 10·1 per cent, even after making allowance for the transfer of amounts to the Electricity Board. I do not deny the fact that the Finance Department and the Minister are having control both in the matter of savings and excess. It would be better if it is brought to the notice of the various departments that these things should be avoided as far as possible. Of course, there are certain things which cannot be avoided, and the Legislature is ready to support them with reference to the unavoidable things. Sir, I support the Demands.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM: Sir, I do not think a reply is called for. We are always taking note of the observations of the Public Accounts Committee, and we are trying to rectify the mistakes as far as possible. It is not only the Finance Department which keeps a watch over savings and excess expenditure. We do now have what is called 'processing' by the State Development Committee. By all these things, we are hoping that it would be possible to minimise these things—savings or extra expenditure. But in spite of our best efforts, I am sure hon. Members would agree that it is not humanly possible to estimate correctly to the pie either this way or that way. So with the best of efforts something of an extra expenditure or caving is likely to take place. But it would be the endeavour of the Finance Department to minimise it as far as possible.

(2) DISCUSSION ON THE FINAL SUPPLEMENTARY STATEMENT OF EXPENDITURE FOR 1960–61.

* SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the supplementary estimate is in respect of expenditure on items for which the originally allotted sum was found insufficient and also